

Claim 1:

A method for file transfer, comprising:

transmitting a file using a satellite communications link in accordance with a scheduling order created by a sender using a screen-based interface specifying pickup and delivery instructions for the file.

Claim 2:

The method of claim 1, further comprising confirming that the file has been transmitted to a provider of the file.

Claim 3:

The method of claim 1, wherein the transmitting is simultaneously performed to selected destinations that are part of a predefined group excluding some destinations in a geographic area.

Claim 4:

The method of claim 1, further comprising receiving the scheduling order from a user, the scheduling order also specifying at least one location and time for retrieval of the file.

Claim 5:

The method of claim 1, further comprising checking facility availability in response to receiving the scheduling order.

Claim 6:

The method of claim 1, further comprising sending a confirmation notice to the user after checking facility availability.

Claim 7:

The method of claim 1, further comprising converting the format of the file.

Claim 8:

The method of claim 1, further comprising storing the file for a predetermined amount of time.

Claim 9:

A system for file transfer, comprising:

a transmitter for transmitting a file using a satellite communications link in accordance with a scheduling order created by a sender using a screen-based interface specifying pickup and delivery instructions for the file.

Claim 10:

The system of claim 9, further comprising means for confirming that the file has been transmitted to a provider of the file.

Claim 11:

The system of claim 9, wherein the transmitting is simultaneously performed to selected destinations that are part of a predefined group excluding some destinations in a geographic area.

Claim 12:

The system of claim 9, further comprising a processor for receiving the scheduling order from a user, the scheduling order also specifying at least one location and time for retrieval of the file.

Claim 13:

The system of claim 9, wherein the processor is also for checking facility availability in response to receiving the scheduling order.

Claim 14:

The system of claim 9, wherein the processor is also for sending a delivery notice to a destination for the file before transmitting the file.

Claim 15:

The system of claim 9, further comprising a processor for converting the format of the file.

Claim 16:

The system of claim 9, further comprising a data storage for storing the file for a predetermined amount of time.

Claim 17:

A user interface for scheduling a file transfer, via a satellite communications system comprising:

a terminal for displaying a data screen to a sender, the data screen including two or more of the following fields specifying a file location, size, pickup time, payment type, confirmation type and delivery time, and

means for sending information entered through the data screen to a central system.

Claim 18:

A method for file reception, comprising:

receiving a file that has been transmitted using a satellite communications link in accordance with a scheduling order created by a sender using a screen-based interface specifying pickup and delivery instructions for the file.

Claim 19:

The method of claim 18, further comprising confirming that the file has been received to a provider of the file.

Claim 20:

The method of claim 18, wherein the file has been transmitted by multicasting.

Claim 21:

The method of claim 18, further comprising confirming availability of delivery according to a scheduling order, and wherein the confirming of availability occurs before the receiving of the file.

Claim 22:

A system for file reception, comprising:

a receiver for receiving a file that has been transmitted using a satellite communications link in accordance with a scheduling order created by a sender using a screen-based interface specifying pickup and delivery time for the file

Claim 23:

The system of claim 22, further comprising means for confirming that the file has been received to a provider of the file.

Claim 24:

The system of claim 22, wherein the file has been transmitted by multicasting.

Claim 25:

The system of claim 22, further comprising means for confirming availability for delivery according to the scheduling order.